



Red Tail Flyer

Volume 2, Issue 50

www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf

December 24, 2004

Christmas season loaded with events

Holiday activities keep Airmen busy

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
332nd AEW/PA

Airmen deployed here for the holidays still have plenty to do for Christmas.

Tonight, base personnel can attend their choice of religious services. Starting at 7 p.m., there is an Orthodox Christmas Eve vigil at the hospital chapel. At 11:30 p.m., there will be a Protestant candle light service inside Town Hall. And at midnight, there is a Catholic mass held at the Tuskegee Chapel.

"The entire chaplain service team here at Balad wishes all goodwill and true inner peace even while we must wage a war to restore a measure of worldly peace," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Gary Brooks, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain.

Christmas day activities start early on with a 5K run. The gun will sound at 7 a.m. for the race around the H-6 perimeter.

"Santa will be at the starting line with hundreds of troops ready to take off running and start their Christmas day," said Maj. Fernando Martinez, 332nd Expeditionary Services commander. "We will have two water points ... and at the

finish line, runners will be able to see their time on the pre-positioned digital clock."

At 10 a.m., Airmen will have the opportunity to attend a Christmas day mass at the Tuskegee Chapel or an Orthodox Christmas day liturgy at the hospital chapel.

"We invite all to join with us in the many opportunities to exercise their faith and join with others in familiar holiday season activities," Chaplain Brooks said.

Operation Christmas Cheer kicks off at 1 p.m. at the recreation center. The event includes gifts and refreshments.

"The chapel team is providing opportunities for worship and refreshment complete with gifts to ensure Airmen of all ranks can celebrate and otherwise observe Christmas in ways that are familiar to them," Chaplain Brooks said.

The evening activities get going at 8 p.m. in the recreation center with the wing commander toasting attendees followed by holiday express bingo.

"The bingo games this time will be called by our group commanders," Major Martinez said. "Prizes will be very worthwhile, with gifts and money at every game. I can tell you, the larger the crowd, the bigger the jackpot will be."

From 9 p.m. to midnight the

Heart-to-Heart



Air Force/Master Sgt. David Reagan

Chap. (Capt.) Martin Adamson, a Protestant chaplain with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, talks with Airman Travis Lightner of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's Detachment 1058 Dec. 13 at Forward Operating Base Speicher. The chaplain recently visited the base, for the story please turn to page six.

celebration concludes with even more events and activities.

"Following bingo, four organized games will be played all the way through

midnight," Major Martinez said. "Specifically, there will be Christmas carol chaos, a scavenger hunt, twins wrapping Christmas maze and balloon popping."

CENTAF commander talks leadership

LDSC students learn from special speaker

Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

332nd AEW/PA

Balad Airmen attending a leadership course here received a lesson from one of the top Air Force leaders in Southwest Asia Saturday during a 50-minute class at Town Hall.

Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, taught the class as part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Leadership Skills Development Course.

The LSDC, a six-part course which began Dec. 7 and concluded Thursday, included courses ranging from basic leadership skills to understanding behavior and developing subordinates.

Chief Master Sgt. John P. Hearn, a former Air Force Senior NCO Academy instructor, started the professional development course to pass on leadership lessons he's learned during his 28-year career.

The chief said General Buchanan's leadership class fit perfectly with other lessons taught during the course.

"Some of the things that he said fit so well with things I'd said during previous lessons," the chief said. "He covered in broad strokes many of the things that we covered in greater detail during the course, so it complemented the lessons very well."

The chief said the general's "analog leadership" style, meaning that he doesn't use e-mail as his primary leadership tool, is a good lesson for every Airman.

"E-mail is great for communicating, but it's cold and impersonal," he said. "(General Buchanan) said you can't tell what someone is thinking or how they react by reading an e-mail message. The most important thing is for leaders to actually get to know the people that work for them and with them. Probably the



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, talks about his leadership approach with students of the Leadership Development Skills Course Saturday inside Town Hall.

most important thing we can remember from the class is to get to know your people."

And the leadership lessons from the class are far-reaching as well, the chief said, and can be used in a deployed setting or at home station.

"There's really no difference between home station and here except the level of intensity," Chief Hearn said.

"Someone told me

that a day here is like a week anywhere else, and there's a lot of truth in that. Here, the threats against us are daily -- we never know when we're going to receive an attack.

"This is a place where everyone really has to work well together. You can't have animosity between organizations, and the people you work with are also the people you spend time with (off duty)," he continued. "One of the things I teach in the

lessons is what causes discontent for people and how to solve those problems."

Col. Michael Williams, 332nd AEW director of staff, also attended the general's class. He said Airmen here can become good leaders by simply using the same leadership style as the general -- trusting those under you to do their job and avoiding excessive involvement.

"He trusts his leaders to know what they are doing and fulfill the mission and just keep him informed," the colonel said. "Everyone is a leader or a follower to some extent here, so we just need to trust that Airmen are trained and prepared to do their job. Doing that will allow us to continue our mission in a professional way."

Chief Hearn said the fact that the general came out and talked to his people was in itself a lesson in leadership.

"It's really easy to send out an e-mail letter during holidays saying I'm proud of what you're doing and I share your concerns," the chief said, "but having the general actually come and put boots on the ground to meet people and talk to them is a big deal."

Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III

- Commands the 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces, from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.
- His command comprises four wings in the eastern United States and four direct reporting units, with more than 350 aircraft and 24,000 active-duty and civilian personnel.

Portal allows Airmen to chat with friends, family

Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen at home or deployed can now send instant messages to their friends or loved ones whenever they have access to the Internet.

The Air Force recently implemented the "Friends and Family Instant Messenger" program, available through the Air Force Portal. Now, besides using the system to connect with other Airmen on work-related projects, users can chat online with non-Air Force friends or family members as well.

"There was a dual purpose for (the instant messenger)," said Lt. Col. Joe Besselman, program director for global combat support systems. "Air Force leaders wanted to give that to Airmen, and to have that available in their work unit so they could chat with one another socially and also accomplish the mission. They also wanted to give deployed (Airmen) the capability to talk with their families back home."

Air Force Special Operations Command was chosen to debut this capability for the Air Force following a two-month test period. Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, AFSOC commander, notified the command's Airmen in his holiday video, available through the Air Force Portal.

"I'm proud to introduce a new Air Force Portal real-time chat tool to help those deployed reach back and talk to their loved ones anytime, anyplace," General Wooley said.

Feedback from the testing period has been positive. The mother of one deployed Airman said the service "has made a big difference in my life. Having the peace of mind of knowing that your loved one is safe on a day-to-day basis is priceless."

Colonel Besselman said supply Airmen use the instant messaging of the portal to help move mission critical parts in and out of war theaters. Some National Guard Airmen are also using the chat to conduct recalls.

The Air Force has offered instant messaging through the portal for more than two years though the chat was limited to Airmen and civilian employees only.

Under the new program, Airmen "sponsor" friends or family onto the portal by entering their e-mail addresses into the system. The portal then generates e-mails inviting them to log on and get their own specially configured account. Airmen can have up to five people added to the system, Colonel Besselman said.

"Five people is an adjustable number," he said. "Based on the feedback ... and the scaling requirements of the infrastructure, we

could change that number."

The Air Force uses a commercially designed real-time chat program to power the program. The software, while tailored to the Air Force's specific needs, is also used by other Department of Defense agencies. The software does not need to be downloaded to users' computers; it is entirely Web-based, Colonel Besselman said.

"If you are using a modern browser, that's all you need to use the chat," he said.

Within the system, it only allows visitors to see if their Air Force sponsors are logged on, he said.

Recently, ranks were added to "screen names" to ensure Airmen knew who they were talking to when online.

"It helps make sure people are operating within the guidelines of the Air Force when they talk to somebody," Colonel Besselman said.

Chat on the portal is also encrypted, to prevent those outside the network from tapping into a conversation.

"A husband and wife can feel comfortable having a one-on-one conversation, because it is secured and encrypted," Colonel Besselman said.

To use the online chat, Airmen first need to get an Air Force Portal account. To sign up, visit <https://www.my.af.mil>.

Holiday Cheer



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Members of Balad's First Sergeant Association and Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, hold up handmade decorations that were made by elementary school students and sent to him as part of Operation Ornament. The operation was organized by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and by Mrs. Mary Jo Myers, wife of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard B. Myers.

Holiday Messages from Air Force Leaders



This is the time of the year when we want to give special recognition to the men and women in uniform – volunteers all – who defend our Nation and the cause of freedom.

But it is appropriate to go beyond a usual holiday message to put in context what is taking place at this time in our country's history. What the men and women in uniform are doing today will prove to be a pivotal chapter in the history of America's meaning and mission.

Since this great Republic's founding, Americans have stood at liberty's front lines. In its earliest days, the United States was the world's only democratic nation. But as the centuries have passed, the audacious and powerful ideals of freedom and self-determination that defined the American experiment have swept across the world.

We have seen it in recent times, in nearly every region of the world:

- in the joy of reunited Germans dancing atop the crumbling Berlin Wall;*
- in the face of the lone young man who stood defiantly before the line of tanks in Tiananmen Square;*
- in the millions of Afghan women who braved violence and intimidation to cast their votes in Afghanistan's first-ever democratic presidential election;*
- in today's passionate debate over free and fair elections in Ukraine; and*
- in the tens of thousands of Iraqis who have volunteered to come to their newly-liberated nation's defense.*

These momentous events would not have been likely had it not been for the daring and determination of America's founders, and for each of the many generations of Americans that followed who kept the flame of liberty alive at home and nurtured it abroad. This is the meaning and mission of America – and no one is more important to that mission than the American Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine.

In these difficult and trying times, I ask our men and women in uniform to remember this: there is perhaps no greater calling in life than what you are doing – standing on freedom's front lines. And there could be no finer legacy to bestow to future generations than being part of our nation's forward strategy for freedom and contributing to a safer and more peaceful world.

So to all of you who are serving our nation – I thank you for your courage. I thank you for your commitment. And to your families and loved ones, I extend my deepest appreciation for your sacrifices. And to all of those who have lost loved ones in this global struggle against extremism, and to all of those recovering from the wounds of battle, know that all who have served our country have been part of something that history and future generations of Americans will honor for decades to come.

Please also know I am deeply grateful to you and that you have my full respect. You have my very best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Donald Rumsfeld

Secretary of Defense





In this special holiday season we offer our sincere best wishes to our Air Force family – our Total Force of active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilians, as well as your families who support your remarkable commitment to protect freedom and defend the United States.

You are the most important part of the world's greatest air and space force – the heart and soul of our combat capability, and the bedrock of what makes this nation great.

For those deployed, please know that you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers, and that we are enormously proud of the work you're doing. In Afghanistan and Iraq, you continue to fight terrorism while helping courageous people find the path to stability and self-governance. For those of you who serve in the United States, you defend our Republic to keep Americans safe.

At home and abroad, you give our nation priceless gifts through your service – our cherished freedoms and the opportunity to live in peace.

This is an extraordinary time to be an American and to serve in America's Air Force. We thank each of you and your families for your incomparable commitment. Wherever you may be this season, we encourage you to pause and reflect on your faith, your family, and your friends.

We're honored to serve with you. We wish each of you a happy holiday season and blessings for a prosperous new year!

Sincerely,

*Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force*

*Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff*



Fellow CENTAF warriors, most of you will celebrate this year's holiday season far from family and friends while engaging in difficult duty that places you in harm's way. Although you may be physically separated from your loved ones, know that you are in their thoughts and prayers...and they in yours. As we celebrate this year's holiday season across the theater from Afghanistan and Iraq to the Horn of Africa, each of you is part of a coalition of diverse nations dedicated to helping others pursue freedom and opportunity.

Today, Afghanistan has a democratically elected government for the only time in its two-millennium history. The citizens of Iraq are poised to elect its first truly democratic government in nearly 40 years. Together, we are making steady progress against the destructive forces of terrorism and helping free people pursue new paths for success.

Every one of you has a mission and every one of you is important. Your selfless service shows in each collective accomplishment. There is an Airman, Soldier, or Marine somewhere tonight whose life was made safer or better by your actions. Know that and that you are making a difference. During your time in theater, you will also gain experience and forge friendships to last a lifetime.

This year, I am proud to know you are on the team, and of what you contribute. Thanks for the privilege of serving with you. May each of you and your loved ones at home enjoy the promise of a safer and better New Year.

Sincerely,

Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan

U.S. CENTAF commander

Chaplain Visit Brings 'Peace' of Mind

Master Sgt. David Reagan

332nd AEW/PA

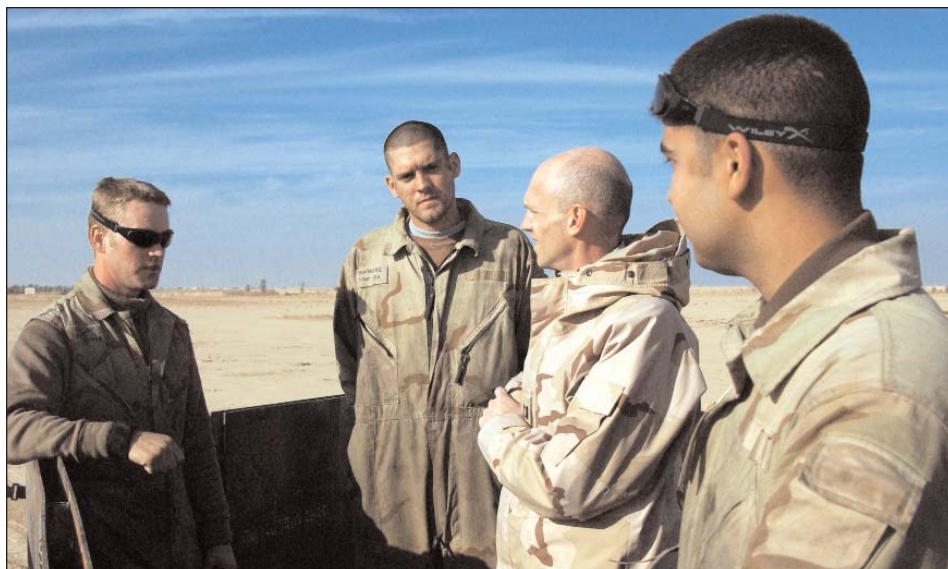
When it comes to delivering spiritual well-being to Airmen throughout the Iraqi theater of operations, the chaplains at Balad Air Base, Iraq, have long since proven there is no such thing as a bridge too far.

Just as they've done many times in the past few months, a chaplain and chaplain's assistant took to the skies aboard an Army Blackhawk helicopter here Dec. 13, and embarked on a journey to an Army encampment at Forward Operating Base Speicher. The base is home to one outlying group of Airmen assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. Cradling an abundance of spiritual material, a keen knack for one-on-one counseling and laden with scripture from a far superior firepower, the team put their unique Air Force talents to work.

Faced with the rather new concept of Airmen directly supporting Army convoy security operations in the Global War on Terror, the 332nd AEW chaplains were quick to mount their own campaign to ensure the spiritual needs of Operation Iraqi Freedom Airmen were met.

"Being able to visit these exceptional men and women is a very good thing," said Chaplain (Capt) Martin Adamson, as he mingled among personnel from the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's Detachment 1058, who perform dangerous convoy security duty for the Army throughout Iraq. "This is our fourth trip here which is important because in past visits we've been able to discuss some issues and now return to see how these individuals are fairing," the Protestant chaplain said. Unlike an ordinary air base, members of detachment 1058 are housed together in their workcenter forging a sense of togetherness, "It's like one-stop shopping here," stated the chaplain. "You can sense the overwhelming closeness and cohesiveness of this group, but along with this dangerous mission they witness a lot of bad things and sometimes they just need some debriefing time with a chaplain."

The 1058th figures predominantly in helping the Army and critical supplies safely reach their destinations within Iraq or Kuwait. They have also helped the Air Force



Air Force/Master Sgt. David Reagan

Chap. (Capt.) Martin Adamson, a chaplain with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, talks with members of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's Detachment 1058 at Forward Operating Base Speicher.



Chaplain Adamson shares a laugh with some Airmen before partaking in physical training with troops.

log well-over a million miles on the road. However, the experience has not been worry-free, or without cost as seven members of the detachment have been awarded The Purple Heart for injuries sustained during convoy attacks.

"These chaplain visits give our Airmen a chance to talk to someone outside of their immediate chain of command here, someone outside the box they can open up to and discuss their experiences from out on the road," said 1st Lt. Mark Ducksworth, 732nd ELRS

Det. 1058 commander. "Most of my Airmen have experienced some unpleasant things on the road and it is good to be able to have an Air Force Chaplain to talk to where that Air Force to Air Force camaraderie is there.

Airmen of the 1058th also have Army battalion chaplains, and combat stress teams on-station to help see to their needs. "It is a good feeling knowing I have someone to talk to, and the team here is always glad to have the chaplains pay us their special visits," said Staff Sgt. Michael Hollins, an armorer for the truck detachment deployed from the 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. "It is good to know we're not forgotten here," Sergeant Hollins remarked shortly after completing the company's daily physical training routine and three-mile run with the chaplain.

"It is really a privilege to be here among these men and women who are doing such an outstanding job for our country," Chaplain Adamson said. "Locations all over Iraq, and the personnel serving at them have the items they have because of the heroic actions of these Airmen. They are continually in my prayers."

So whether the boots of Airmen are hitting the ground close to Balad or at an outpost far removed, rest assured the far-reaching hands of the 332nd chaplain corps will find them.

GECKO MAINTENANCE

Keeps Air Flow Surging at Balad

Master Sgt. David Reagan
332nd AEW/PA

Whether it involves a strategic airlifter filled to capacity or the sleek lines of an F-15E *Strike Eagle* transiting the area, one Balad Air Base team has shown they have what it takes to keep the myriad of aircraft supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom thundering high above.

As cargo, personnel and operations at this thriving Middle Eastern superhub flow at a breakneck pace, and aircraft fueling an all-out assault on Anti-Iraqi forces ebb and flow, the band of Airmen assigned to Detachment 5 of the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group here continually push the bounds of modern airpower history.

Capable of maintaining any aircraft in the U.S. inventory and then some, while providing specialized ground maintenance for each, the Det. 5 'Geckos' pound out a constant beat of precision. This feat is even more astounding granted it takes place in the austere and frequently unforgiving desert terrain where cold, clear nights and blustery conditions have replaced the heat waves of summer to become the norm during winter in Iraq.

Deriving their nickname from a desert lizard common in barren desert stretches, the Geckos appear to have adapted well to their newfound home away from home. Darting from aircraft to aircraft, a launch here, refuel there, a recovery there, an inbound with a maintenance discrepancy ... the list goes on and on until it all quickly equals traf-



Air Force Master Sgt. David Reagan

(Above) Staff Sgt. Dale Vince Cruz, a C-5 hydraulic systems craftsman with Detachment 5 of the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group, pulls a hydraulic cart into place prior to servicing a *Galaxy* with fluid. (Below) Senior Airman, a C-5 crew chief, tightens a gland nut on a *Galaxy* nose landing gear piston.

fic at a major Air Mobility Command cargo port in the United States. Albeit using only one-fifth of the personnel to arrive at the same output.

"Our team is absolutely critical in sustaining Air Mobility Command's goal of on-time strategic airlift and superior support for all operations in this theater," Maj. Grant Izzi, Det. 5 commander said. Providing critical support to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing might seem a daunting task however it is one task the detachment personnel remain committed to in force. "One team, no seams," is our motto Maj. Izzi said of the men and women of the AMC detachment.

Numbering less than 50 per-

with additions, cancellations and other pertinent flight information.

"On paper we can launch, recover up to 16 different types of aircraft, but we also help arrange fuel services, ground power and key support for other civilian traffic," Master Sgt. John Dietle, the detachment's maintenance superintendent said. "Anyone who's here, whether they are servicemembers passing through, USO tour celebrities or one of many distinguished visitors, they come through us first," Dietle said. "24-hours a day, in heat, cold or pending sandstorms, we are the first impression of Balad Air Base."

Keying on Team Gecko's ability to resolve maintenance issues right the first time - all the time, Maj. Izzi put their mission in perspective. "We are proud to be part of this historical wing, and we know they are proud of us," he said. They are continuously singing our praises, and we're here to ensure the Tuskegee Airmen wing continues to be an overwhelming success.

"It feels great to be here because I believe in what we are doing, and I see how my actions contribute to the mission everyday," Senior Airman Andrew Porden a C-5 *Galaxy* communications and navigation craftsman said.

Proud of his accomplishments in support of the Global War on Terror, a detachment Airman remarked. "I will be very proud to tell my grandchildren that I helped bring freedom to Iraq."



sonnel, the Geckos providing stellar support the 332nd AEW frequently ensure the safe arrival and departure for upwards of 50 flights per day. Their flight schedule seemingly more reminiscent of a page out of DaVinci's doodle pad, teaming

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS? IT'S BIGGER THAN THAT!

Lt. Col. Alan Peterson

332nd EMDG

This will undoubtedly be a memorable holiday season and most of us would prefer to be somewhere else.

For some individuals, this is the first time that they have been separated from family and friends for the holiday season, and it can be a difficult time. Other individuals have done this before, but that doesn't necessarily make it any easier. Over the next few days, many of us will think back fondly of previous holiday seasons that we enjoyed with family and friends and wonder what it is that we are missing this year. However, we are all here because we have an important job to do. Our goal over this holiday season is not to just "cope" with the holidays — it's bigger than that!

Each of us has an important role to play in the completion of our mission at Balad Air Base. Whether it is launching aircraft, pumping fuel, protecting convoys, or caring for the combat wounded — we all have important roles to play. This year, our families, our country, the people of Iraq, and many people around the world need us to be here to complete our mission. The future of our country and the things we believe in are dependent on us doing our job and doing it well. We need to stay focused, keep our eye on the target, and relentlessly concentrate on mission accomplishment until the day we leave the AOR. Accidents, errors, and down-right misbehavior are much more likely to happen during the

last month of the deployment. I recently realized that a 4-month deployment consists of two parts — the first three months — and the last month. Things can begin to drag during the final month in the deployed setting. Now is the time for us to continue our work, accomplish our mission, and do more than just cope with the holidays.

For many of us this will be the only holiday season we will be separated from our families and friends out of 70, 80, or more holiday seasons throughout our lifetime. For others, this may be one of many holidays that are spent in the deployed setting. Either way, we can all

cope with the holidays and in the future we will look back proudly of our accomplishments here. How do we know that we can cope with the holidays? We have all managed, tolerated, and coped with many life difficulties in the past, including some that we had never experienced before. Just remember the things that have helped you cope in the past and so far during this deployment: exercise, communicate regularly with family and friends, and keep yourself busy during off-duty time. Time drags slowly when we are bored. Keep busy during your off-duty time with reading, working out, playing games, participating in spiri-

tual activities, watching movies, or whatever else will maintain your interest and occupy your time. Additionally, trying to maintain healthy thinking and realistic expectations for ourselves and others can help us to cope effectively and accomplish our mission.

My wife inspired me to write this holiday article. She has often been an inspiration for me, and many times she is not even aware of it. During a recent morale call with her, she told me that someone at a Christmas party had said to her "This must be very difficult for you, having your husband deployed to Iraq over Christmas?" She responded by saying "Sure I will miss him, but it's bigger than that. The troops in Iraq need my husband even more than I do this year!"

From my perspective, my family and I will not miss Christmas this year — we will celebrate it twice. The first time will be on December 25th, at which time my wife and two sons will celebrate Christmas at my home, and I will open a few small gifts here that they sent to me. My family plans to keep an artificial Christmas tree decorated at my home until I return. They will even have a few more presents waiting for me when I return. So, the thought that I will not be "missing Christmas" this year helps keeps me inspired to get the job done and get home to my family. Therefore, my goal — and hopefully the goal for many of you this holiday season is not to simply "cope" with the holidays, because it's bigger than that!



Defense briefs

Surprise inspection nets weapons, alcohol, merchandise

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – Officials here found unauthorized firearms and alcohol, military uniforms and other merchandise during a surprise inspection of areas inhabited by third-country workers and American contractors.

“The sweep was the first of its kind and, because of its success, has set the precedence for future rotations to follow,” said Col. Greg Fick, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander.

Officials said the sweep broke up a theft ring at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility.

“We found about six weapons, including an AK-47 rifle, and about \$7,000 worth of stolen merchandise from AAFES,” said Maj. Robert Baird, 506th AEG force protection officer.

“We originally planned to inspect these areas to ensure the quality-of-life issues surrounding our contract workers and make sure chemicals were stored properly for safety reasons,” Major Baird said. “These inspections are a good (random anti-terrorism measure) and provide training for members of our force protection team who normally wouldn’t be exposed to these types of operations.”

The people involved also learned an important lesson.

“Nobody can afford to be complacent while they’re here,” said Staff Sgt. Kristi Varner, 506th AEG force protection escort team leader. “We always have to be aware of what is going on around us because you never know what could happen.”

Inspections help ensure the safety of the base and its people.

“The end result of this operation was very advantageous,” Major Baird said. “We were able to take guns off the streets, 13 AAFES employees were fired, and we got the message across that we are very serious about force protection on this base.”

This operation was the first of a two-phase operation and will continue as future rotations arrive.

New hangars establish bomber deployment option

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. – The B-2 Spirit now has a new home away from home.

Officials at Royal Air Force Fairford, England, recently unveiled two climate-controlled permanent hangars specifically designed for the B-2. The new 50,000-square-foot facilities allow specialized low-observable-surface maintenance to be performed.

“Low-observable maintenance is the backbone of the B-2,” said Col. Chris Matson, 509th Maintenance Group commander. “Having the (dock) at Fairford allows us to do this critical process faster.”

The maintenance is essential to maintaining the specialized coatings that cover the aircraft’s composite and metal skin. Applying these coatings, and ensuring they cure correctly, must be done in a climate-controlled environment, said Master Sgt. Brian Tobin, of the 509th Maintenance Squadron.

Forward basing B-2s at Fairford saves about 16 hours of flight time across the Atlantic Ocean and will enable the bombers to reach targets sooner, Colonel Matson said.

“Staging the B-2 closer to potential theater engagement areas will provide a deterrent to adversaries of the United States,” said Lt. Col. Tom Bussiere, 325th Bomb Squadron commander. “The completion of the B-2 shelter is a step in the right direction in making RAF Fairford a fully operational B-2 forward operating base.”

Meet your neighbor



Airman 1st Class Amber Waswick

Home station: McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Unit: 721st AMOG, Det. 5

Family: They reside back in my hometown of Hinsdale, N.H.

Hobbies: Painting, crafts, sports, gym, volunteer child care, assisted care for elderly, clubs, camping, hiking and many more.

How do you contribute to the mission? Launch, recover, service and maintain aircraft coming through our transit ramp.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? The diversity of our members in this location (other Air Force members, Army and Marines), working hard and volunteering to help out at the CASF.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? Just the simple pleasures of being able to walk in, toss my stuff aside, take a long bath and then chill out with my cat, Sheila.

FIRE SAFETY TIP

Remember ...

*No open flames
in trailers or
tents. The only
cooking items
allowed are
coffee machines
and microwaves.*



Air Force Religious Schedule

Please see front page story for holiday worship schedule.

Protestant

Sundays:
8 a.m. • Religious Education – H-6 Chapel
9 a.m. • Contemporary Worship – H-6 Chapel
10:30 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital
2 p.m. • Bible Study – Hospital
3 p.m. • Devotional – CSAR Theatre
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship – T-Town Chapel

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays:
8:45 a.m. • Purpose Driven Life Study – CASF

Daily:
8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Islamic

Fridays:
1:30 p.m. • Prayer – Provider Chapel

Church of Christ

Sundays:
11 a.m. • Worship – 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Lutheran

Sundays:
8:30 a.m. • Cherokee Chapel
2 p.m. • 185th Task Force Tent

Roman Catholic

Sundays:
10:30 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. • Mass – CASF

Fridays:

6 p.m. • Reconciliation – Hospital
6:30 p.m. • Mass – Hospital

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:
7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6 Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6 Chapel

Thursdays:

7 p.m. • Study Group – H-6 Chapel

Jewish

Fridays:
6:30 p.m. • Prayer – Eden Chapel

Orthodox

Sundays:
11 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 185th Task Force Tent

Saturdays:

7 p.m. • Vespers – 185th Task Force Tent

Know what this is?



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Last week's photo of the *Red Tail Flyer* was first identified by Tech. Sgt. Steven Becker, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group.



Sustainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today	9 p.m. - National Treasure	Treasure
3 p.m. - Ocean's 12		
6 p.m. - Lemony		
9 p.m. - Ocean's 12	Monday	Wednesday
	3 p.m. - Paparazzi	3 p.m. - Ladder 49
Saturday	6 p.m. - Team America	6 p.m. - Resident Evil
3 p.m. - Team America	9 p.m. - National Treasure	9 p.m. - Team America
6 p.m. - Ocean's 12		
9 p.m. - Lemony	Tuesday	Thursday
	3 p.m. - Paparazzi	3 p.m. - Sharks
Sunday	6 p.m. - Team America	6 p.m. - King Arthur
3 p.m. - Lemony	9 p.m. - National	9 p.m. - Ocean's 12
6 p.m. - Surviving Christmas		



332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

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The *Red Tail Flyer* is published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

This unfunded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *Red Tail Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided

by the public affairs staff of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

The deadline for all editorial submissions is 5 p.m. the Tuesday prior to the date of publication.